## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A processor supports a mode in which the default operand size is 32 bits, but

which supports operand size overrides to 64 bits. Furthermore, the default operand size
may automatically be overridden to 64 bits for instructions having an implicit stack
pointer reference and for near branch instructions. The overriding of the default operand
size may occur without requiring an operand size override encoding in these instructions.

In one embodiment, the instruction set specifying the instructions may be a variable byte
length instruction set (e.g. x86), and the operand size override encoding may be a prefix
byte which increases the instruction length.